Department of Energy

ROCKY FLATS OFFICE
P O BOX 928
GOLDEN COLORADO 80402-0928

SEP 11 10 26 AM '91

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91-DOE-6349

ROCKY FLATS PLANT
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL

Ms Judy Bruch
Rocky Flats Program Unit
Colorado Department of Health
4210 East 11th Avenue
Denver, Colorado

Dear Ms Bruch

Enclosed for your information is a report entitled "Evaluation of Surface Water Quality for Rocky Flats Plant Terminal Ponds A-4, B-5 and C-2," prepared by the Clean Water Act Division of EG&G Rocky Flats The report summarizes and interprets water quality data for radionuclides and organic compounds in our terminal ponds, and makes recommendations regarding continued treatment of Rocky Flats discharges and monitoring regimes for a number of parameters

The report concludes that the water in the terminal ponds is of sufficiently high quality such that Colorado's water quality standards for radionuclides and organic compounds are routinely met even in untreated waters As a result, we are confident that the release of untreated water from the Plant's terminal ponds will not result in exceedences of State water quality standards We therefore propose to discontinue the regular treatment of water discharged from the Plant's terminal ponds We will leave the current treatment systems in place in order to provide a contingent treatment capability in case of an inadvertent release of contaminants into the terminal ponds

We propose to discontinue regular treatment for any and all discharges taking place on or after September 21, 1991 We will, of course, continue to participate in pre-discharge split sampling and evaluation with your agency as agreed to in the Agreement in Principle between our two organizations Any discharges taking place prior to September 21 will continue to be treated and released according to the current convention

You will also note that the report proposes substantial reductions in the monitoring frequencies for a number of parameters in terminal pond waters, especially as regards organic constituents For the most part, these reductions are proposed for parameters that have been undetected in pond waters and for which the Rocky Flats Plant is not a known or suspected source None of the proposed reductions will affect monitoring required by our Federal discharge permit, and we believe that none of the reductions will substantively affect the amount of meaningful information provided to the public regarding the quality of water released by Rocky Flats Once again, we propose to implement these changes effective September 21, 1991

We hereby request your concurrence with the aforementioned proposals In sending this letter, we are requesting similar concurrences from the U S Environmental Protection Agency and local communities If you do not concur with our proposals, please let us know prior to September 21 so that we might confer on any issues of concern to you

If you have any questions on these matters please call either myself or Mr Tom Lukow of my staff at 966-4561

Sincerely,

David P. Simonson

David P Simonson
Assistant Manager
for Environmental Management

Enclosure

cc (w/Enclosure)
Office of Governor Roy Romer
B Barry, CDH/RFPU
R Shankland, USEPA Region VIII
S Nachtrieb, City of Westminster
K Schnoor, City of Broomfield
K Scott, City of Northglenn
B Hart, City of Thornton

(w/o Enclosure)
T Lukow, RFO
J Rampe, RFO
D Hauser, RFO
A Rampertaap, HQ
J Kersh, EG&G